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East Boston's Employment Base Changes, 1967 - 1983

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East Boston's employment base has changed substantially over the last twenty years. In the early 1960's the primary source of employment in East Boston was manufactruring. Yet, Logan Airport was in the early stages of an expansion program that would, by 1968, make air transportation the neighborhood's largest source of employment.

East Boston's manufacturing base, in 1967, consisted of 35 manufacturing establishments providing a total of 4,300 jobs, mostly in wood products, electric and electronic equipment, apparel, and ship building and repair (see Table 1). At that time, Logan Airport supported around 5,000 jobs, up from about 3,000 jobs in 1964. By 1968, air transportation employment had reached about 6,000 in East Boston.

Boston's manufacturing base was diminished by national recessions in 1970 and 1974 and by changing regional markets in the 1970's. Employment in manufacturing in Boston fell from 78,000 in 1967 to 49,000 in 1983. That trend was evident in East Boston. As of 1983, manufacturing employment had decreased by one-third, to 2,800 (see Table 1). Although East Boston had about the same number of manufacturing establishments in 1967 and 1983, they were relatively small plants. Since 1983, two of the largest manufacturers have moved or closed operations, cutting the manufacturing employment by 1,200.

Meanwhile, employment at Logan Airport grew to 11,000 by 1981, which was one-half of East Boston's employment base (see Table 2). In addition to air transportation employment, activity at Logan Airport supports jobs in eating and drinking places, hotels and business services in East Boston.

In this shift in East Boston's employment base good or bad for East
Boston residents? Certainly, the loss of manufacturing jobs hurts those
residents who have blue collar skills and experience if they cannot find jobs

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with comparable rates in non-manufacturing establishments. How many of the former manufacturing workers would be worse off is not known. Nor do we know how many of the lost manufacturing jobs were held by East Boston residents.

Data from the 1980 Census and the BRA's 1985 Household Survey indicate that about one-fourth of East Boston's working residents work in East Boston (see Table 3), one-half work elsewhere in Boston, and the remainder work outside of the City. Census data also show that about two of every ten East Boston working residents were employed by a manufacturing firm in 1970 and 1980 (see Table 4). Transportation employed less than 10 percent of the resident workers in those years.

This information implies that the shift in job opportunities in East Boston may have been detrimental to manufacturing workers from East Boston and elsewhere. However, job opportunities in transportation and related services in East Boston and in a variety of business types in the rest of Boston and other cities and towns are open to East Boston residents. Further, three quarters of all East Boston working residents work outside of their neighborhood. Consequently, the adverse effects of the shift in employment sources in East Boston are spread around and partially offset by growth in employment opportunities elsewhere in the Boston area.



Table 1

Manufacturing in East Boston Number of Establishments and Employees by Type of Industry, 1967

SIC	Type of Business	Establishments	Employment
20 23 24 26 34 35 36 37 38	Food Processing Apparel & Other Lumber & Wood Paper & Allied Products Fabricated Metal Machinery Except Electrica Electric & Electronic Equiportation Transportation Equipment Instruments Other Manufacturing		81 731 1,175 69 218 56 1,109 549 124 207
	All Manufacturing	35	4,319

Source: Mass. Dept. of Commerce and Development, Mass. Industrial Directory, 1968.

Manufacturing in East Boston
Number of Establishments and Employees
by Type of Industry, 1983

SIC	Type of Business	Establishments	Employment
20 23 25 27 30 34 35 39	Food Processing Apparel & Other Furniture & Fixtures Printing & Publishing Rubber & Plastics Fabricated Metal Machinery Except Electrical Miscellaneous Manufacturing Other Manufacturing		90 1,234 54 77 100 95 13 902 278
	All Manufacturing	40	2,843

Source: Economic Development Industrial Corporation, Boston Manufacturing Universe, 1984.



Table 2

BOSTON NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS PATTERNS NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS AND NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES BY TYPE OF BUSINESS, 1981

EAST BOSTON(02128)

	,		
SIC	TYPE OF BUSINESS	ESTABLISHMENTS	EMPLOYEES
	AGRI.& MINING	2	9
	CONSTRUCTION GENERAL CONTRACTORS HEAVY CONSTRUCTION SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS	Z1	344
15	GENERAL CONTRACTORS	6	47
16	HEAVY CONSTRUCTION	n n	0
17	SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS	24	297
	MANUFALIURING	48	2,791
20	FOOD & KINDRED PRODUCTS	7	30
21	TOBACCO MANUFACTURES	Ó	0
22	TEXTILE MILL PRODUCTS	2	364
23	APPAREL & OTHER TEXTILE	10	705
24		1	2
25	LUMBER & WOOD FURNITURE & FIXTURES PAPER & ALLIED PRODUCTS PRINTING & PUBLISHING	î	14
26	PAPER & ALLIED PRODUCTS	Ô	Ö
27	PRINTING & PUBLISHING	5	33
28	CHEMICALS	0	0
29	CHEMICALS PETROLEUM & COAL PRODUCTS RUBBER & PLASTICS LEATHER	ĭ	34
30	PURRED & PLASTICS	ī	34
31	LEATHER	Ô	0
32	LEATHER STONE,CLAY & GLASS PRIMARY METALS FABRICATED METAL	o o	o
33	DRIMARY METALS	0	ō
34	FABRICATED METAL	10	235
35	MACHINERY EX. ELECTRICAL	4	21
36	ELECTRIC & ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT	2	48
37	TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT	3	830
38	INSTRUMENTS	0	0
39	MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURING	3	441
- /	TRANSPORT.& PUBLIC UTILITIES		12,053
41	LOCAL TRANSIT	2	17
42	TRUCKING & WAREHOUSING	15	335
44	WATER TRANSPORTATION	14	174
45	TRANSPORTATION BY AIR	35	10,945
47	TRANSPORTATION SERVICES	35	569
48	COMMUNICATION	0	D
49	ELECTRIC, GAS & SANITARY SERVICES		14

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EAST BOSTON(02128) CONTINUED

SIC	TYPE OF BUSINESS	ESTABLISHMENTS	EMPLOYEES
	WHOLESALE TRADE	26	4.36
50	WHOLESALE TRADE-DURABLE	14	275
51	WHOLESALE TRADE-NONDURABLE	11	162
	RETAIL TRADE	134	2,766
52	BUILDING MATERIALS & GARDEN	7	25
53	GENERAL MERCHANDISE STORES	3	38
54	FOOD STORES	. 25	371
55	AUTOMOTIVE DEALERS & SERVICE	10	121
56	APPAREL & ACCESSORY STORES	9	138
57	FURNITURE & HOME FURNISHIN;S		46
58	EATING & DRINKING PLACES	40	1,707
59	MISCELLANEOUS RETAIL	31	320
	FINANCE-INSURANCE-REAL ESTATE	22	186
60	BANKING	9	106
61	CREDIT AGENCIES	1	34
62	SECURITY, COMMODITY BROKERS	0	0
63	INSURANCE CARRIERS	0	0
64	INSURANCE AGENTS, BROKERS	6	26
65	REAL ESTATE	5	16
66	COMBINED REAL ESTATE-INSURANCE	1	2
67	HOLDING & OTHER INVESTMENT	1	2
	SERVICES	120	4,020
70	HOTELS & OTHER LODGING	3	550
72	PERSONAL SERVICES	18	96
73	BUSINESS SERVICES	19	1,189
75	AUTO REPAIR	20	520
76	MISCELLANEOUS REPAIR	5	33
78	MOTION PICTURES	0	0
79	AMUSEMENT & RECREATION	5	663
80	HEALTH SERVICES	17	609
81	LEGAL SERVICES	4	9
82	EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	5	86
83	SOCIAL SERVICES	10	177
84	MUSEUMS	0	0
86	MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS	13	70
89	MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES	4	18
	NONCLASSIFIABLE ESTABLISHMENTS	11	39
	TOTAL	495	22,645
	PERCENT OF BOSTON	3.2	5.2

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, COUNTY BUSINESS PATTERNS, 1981.



Table 3

Location of Place of Work of Employed, 1980

	Own Neighborhood	Downtown Boston	Elsewhere In Boston	In Metro Area	Outside Metro Area	Total
East Boston	23%	28%	23%	21%	26	100%
Jestown	27	23	34	16		100%
South Boston	25	19	46	10	1	100%
Central	45	(45)	30	18	7	100%
Back Bay/Beacon Hill and	}		}	} .	,	
Fenway/Kenmore	28	29	21	19	က	100%
South End	15	15	46	20	က	100%
Allston/Brighton	21	. 13	27	32	7	100%
ica Plain/Parker Hill	18	23	20	35	4	100%
ury	20	12	53	15	1	100%
Dorchester		12	64	22	2	100%
Dorchester	25	24	34	16	2	100%
apan	7	20	42	32	ı	100%
indale	12	27	31	28	2	100%
Roxbury	15	22	30	32	_	100%
Hyde Park	12	23	35	30	1	100%
Boston Total	19%	20%	34%	24%	3%	100%

Column figures may not total 100 due to rounding.

Based on 1167 observations (weighted).

Boston Redevelopment Authority Household Survey, conducted by Center for Survey Research, 1980. Source:

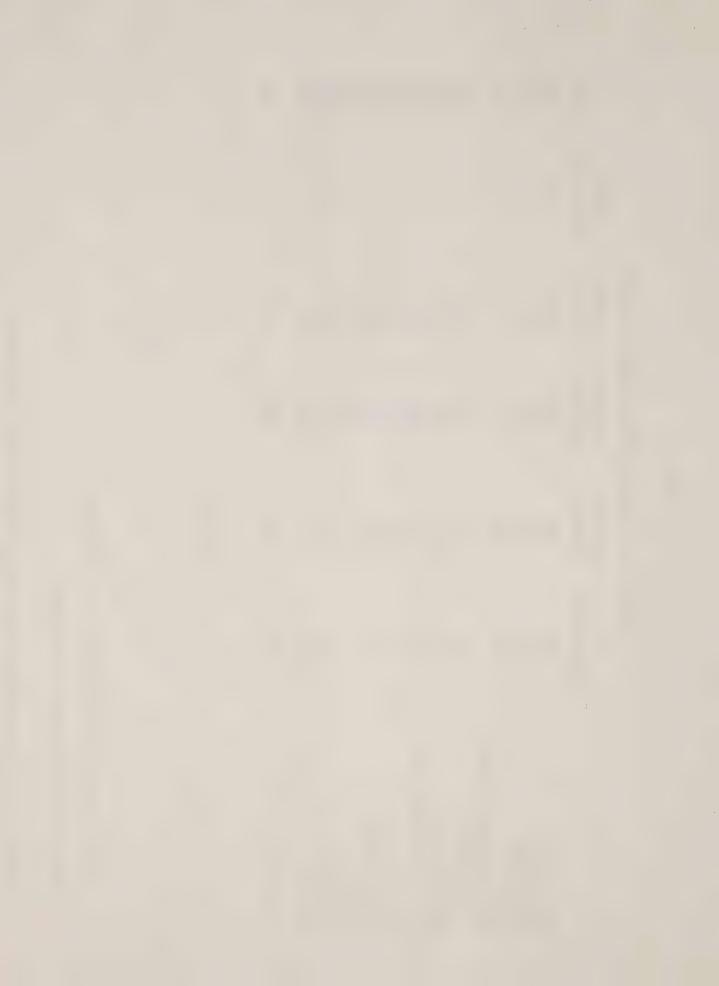


Table 4

Employed Persons, 16 Years and Over, by Industry, in East Boston, 1970, 1980

		1980	1970
Employed	Residents (number)	13,477	15,575
Industry	of Work (percent): Manufacturing Transportation Other	20.5 7.7 71.9	26.9 6.3 66.8

Source: Bureau of the Census, 1970, 1980.











